Appl. No. 09/663,811
Amdt. dated March 10, 2005
Reply to Final Office Action of January 13, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9-20 were pending in this application before submission of this paper. No claim amendments are made. Accordingly, Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9-20 remain pending. Reconsideration of all pending claims is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-4

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,469,559 issued to *Clifton* in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,571,278 issued to *Negishi* and U.S. Pat. No. 6,339,423 issued to *Sampson*. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 recites, "determining whether the first computing machine is within the owner domain by retrieving from the security descriptor the identity of the owner domain ... ." Thus, a computer-readable medium according to Claim 1 has instructions at least related to: (1) an owner domain and (2) retrieving from the security descriptor the identity of the owner domain.

Column 3, line 54 to column 4 line 8 of *Clifton* is cited as teaching this feature. As described below, Applicants respectfully assert that the cited portion of *Clifton* does not teach or suggest an owner domain, and further, does not teach or suggest retrieving from the security descriptor the identity of the owner domain.

The cited portion of *Clifton* appears to equate *Clifton's* resources to objects as recited in Claim 1. However, Applicants could find no teaching or suggestion that a resource in *Clifton* could have an owner and/or that the owner could have a domain. Rather, *Clifton* discloses, "all resources ... are assigned a privilege level in addition to a classification level by use of descriptors" (col. 3, lines 9-14). Because *Clifton* does not teach an owner and/or that an owner can have a domain, does not teach or suggest an "owner domain" as recited in Claim 1.

Still further, *Clifton* fails to teach or suggest the feature "retrieving from the security descriptor the identity of the owner domain." As previously described, *Clifton* does not teach or suggest that a resource can have an owner and, thus, cannot teach or suggest an "owner domain." In addition, *Clifton* discloses, "all resources needed to perform specific functions are organized into a domain which corresponds to a privilege level. Information identifying the domain to which a resource belongs is included in the descriptor" (col. 3, lines 18-22). That is, the descriptor contains the resource's domain – not the owner's domain. Applicants respectfully assert that a resource's domain is not equivalent to an owner domain. Stated another way, the descriptor disclosed by *Clifton* does not identify the domain to which an owner of a resource belongs – rather it identifies a domain to which a resource belongs.

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The cited disclosures of *Negishi* and *Sampson* do not overcome the deficiencies of *Clifton* with respect to "owner domain" and "retrieving from the security descriptor the identity of the owner domain" as recited in Claim 1. Consequently, the cited references do not teach or suggest each element of Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 1 and dependent Claims 2 and 3 are allowable over the cited references.

Claim 5

Claim 5 stands rejected as being unpatentable over *Clifton* in view of *Negishi* and further in view of *Sampson* and U.S. Pat. No. 6,295,605 issued to *Dockter*. Applicants respectfully traverse. Claim 5 depends from Claim 1. *Dockter* is cited as disclosing a feature related to a performing a special security evaluation if a field indicates it should be performed. This disclosure of *Dockter* does not overcome the deficiencies of *Clifton*, *Negishi* and *Sampson* as described above with regard to parent Claim 1. Therefore, Claim 1 and dependent Claim 5 are patentable over the cited references.

Claim 6

Claim 6 stands rejected as being unpatentable over *Clifton* in view of *Negishi* and further in view of *Sampson*, *Dockter*, and U.S. Pat. No. 6,295,605 issued to *Goertzel*. Applicants respectfully traverse. Claim 6 depends from Claim 5. *Goertzel* is cited as disclosing a feature related to a second computing device evaluating whether a requestor is authorized to modify an object. This disclosure of *Goertzel* does not overcome the deficiencies of *Clifton*, *Negishi*, *Sampson* and *Dockter* as described above with regard to parent Claim 1. Therefore, Claim 5 and dependent Claim 6 are patentable over the cited references.

Claims 7, and 9-12

Claims 7, and 9-12 stand rejected as being unpatentable over *Clifton* in view of *Goertzel* and further in view of *Negishi* and *Dockter*. Note, Claim 8 was canceled in the Amendment of July 22, 2004. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 7 recites in part, "the object having an associated security descriptor identifying an owner for the object ... ." Thus, a computer-implemented method according to Claim 7 at least uses a security descriptor identifying the owner domain. As previously described, *Clifton* does not disclose an owner domain and, further, discloses a descriptor that includes information to identify the domain of a resource (i.e., the domain to which a resource belongs is not equivalent to the owner domain). Thus, *Clifton* does not teach or suggest a security descriptor as recited in

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Claim 7. Also as previously described, the cited portions of *Goertzel, Negishi* and *Dockter* do not overcome these deficiencies of Clifton. Therefore, Claim 7 and dependent Claims 9-

Claims 13 and 20

Claims 13 and 20 stand rejected as being unpatentable over *Sampson* in view of *Negishi* and further in view of *Clifton*. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 13 recites in part, "to retrieve from the object the owner domain identifier, to compare the owner domain identifier with an identifier of a domain from which the request originated."

Clifton is cited as disclosing security access rights including an owner domain identifier. As previously described, *Clifton* and the other cited references do not teach or suggest an owner domain. As previously described, *Clifton* discloses that a resource includes a descriptor that contains the resource's domain – not the owner's domain. A resource's domain is not equivalent to an owner domain. Therefore, Claim 13 includes at least one element that is not taught nor suggested by any of the cited references. Thus, Claim 13 and dependent Claim 20 are allowable over the cited references.

Claims 14 and 15

Claims 14 and 15 stand rejected as being unpatentable over *Sampson* in view of *Negishi* and further in view of *Clifton*, and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,453,354 issued to *Jiang*, and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,226,752 issued to *Gupta*. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claims 14 and 15 are dependent from Claim 13, and the Office Action applies *Sampson-Negishi-Clifton* as teaching parent Claim 13 as previously described. *Jiang* is then cited as disclosing, "access request to file system is forwarded to owner of the file if the request is not received by the owner of the file system" and "the first system forwards the request to another file system if it's not the owner of the requesting file." *Gupta* is cited as disclosing, "redirecting the requestor to another system." Applicants respectfully assert that the cited disclosures of *Jiang* and/or *Gupta* do not overcome the deficiencies of *Sampson-Negishi-Clifton* with regard to "owner domain" and retrieving an "owner domain identifier" from an object as recited in parent Claim 13. Therefore, parent Claim 13 and dependent Claims 14 and 15 are patentable over the cited references.

Claim 16

Claim 16 stands rejected as being unpatentable over *Sampson* in view of *Negishi* and further in view of *Clifton* and *Goertzel*. Applicants respectfully traverse.

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Claim 16 is dependent from Claim 13, and the Office Action applies *Sampson-Negishi-Clifton* as teaching parent Claim 13 as previously described. *Goertzel* is then cited as disclosing, "to determine whether the request to modify the object originated within a particular domain of the plurality of domains, and if so, then to perform a standard security evaluation of the request …". Applicants respectfully assert that the cited disclosure of *Goertzel* does not overcome the deficiencies of *Sampson-Negishi-Clifton* with regard to "owner domain" and retrieving an "owner domain identifier" from an object as recited in parent Claim 13. Therefore, parent Claim 13 and dependent Claim 16 are patentable over the cited references.

Claim 17

Claim 17 stands rejected as being unpatentable over *Sampson* in view of *Negishi* and further in view of *Clifton, Goertzel,* and U.S. Pat. No. 5,805,820 issued to *Bellovin.* Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 17 is dependent from Claim 16, and the Office Action applies *Sampson-Negishi-Clifton-Goertzel* as teaching parent Claim 16 as previously described. *Bellovin* is then cited as disclosing, "the particular domain is a root domain of the shared data structure". Applicants respectfully assert that the cited disclosure of *Bellovin* does not overcome the deficiencies of *Sampson-Negishi-Clifton-Goertzel* with regard to "owner domain" and retrieving an "owner domain identifier" from an object as recited in parent Claim 16 (via Claim 13). Therefore, parent Claim 16 and dependent Claim 17 are patentable over the cited references.

Claim 18

Claim 18 stands rejected as being unpatentable over *Sampson* in view of *Negishi* and further in view of *Clifton* and U.S. Pat. No. 6,243,815 issued to *Antur.* Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 18 is dependent from Claim 13, and the Office Action applies *Sampson-Negishi-Clifton* as teaching parent Claim 13 as previously described in the rejection of Claim 13. *Antur* is then cited as disclosing, "the shared data structure comprises a directory service and wherein the at least one data store comprises configuration data associated with the directory service." Applicants respectfully assert that the cited disclosure of *Antur* does not overcome the deficiencies of *Sampson-Negishi-Clifton* with regard to "owner domain" and retrieving an "owner domain identifier" from an object as recited in parent Claim 13. Therefore, parent Claim 13 and dependent Claim 18 are patentable over the cited references.

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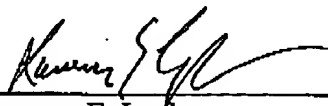Reply to Final Office Action of January 13, 2005

Claim 19

Claim 19 stands rejected as being unpatentable over *Sampson* in view of *Negishi* and further in view of *Clifton* and U.S. Pat. No. 6,466,980 issued to *Lumelsky*. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 19 is dependent from Claim 13, and the Office Action applies *Sampson-Negishi-Clifton* as teaching parent Claim 13 as previously described in the rejection of Claim 13. *Lumelsky* is then cited as disclosing, "the shared data structure comprises a directory service and wherein the at least one data store comprises schema data associated with the directory service". Applicants respectfully assert that the cited disclosure of *Lumelsky* does not overcome the deficiencies of *Sampson-Negishi-Clifton* with regard to "owner domain" and retrieving an "owner domain identifier" from an object as recited in parent Claim 13. Therefore, parent Claim 13 and dependent Claim 19 are patentable over the cited references.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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